

An Essay

on

The Homoeopathic Principal
of Exhibiting but

One Remedy at a Time

Respectfully Submitted

To the Faculty of the

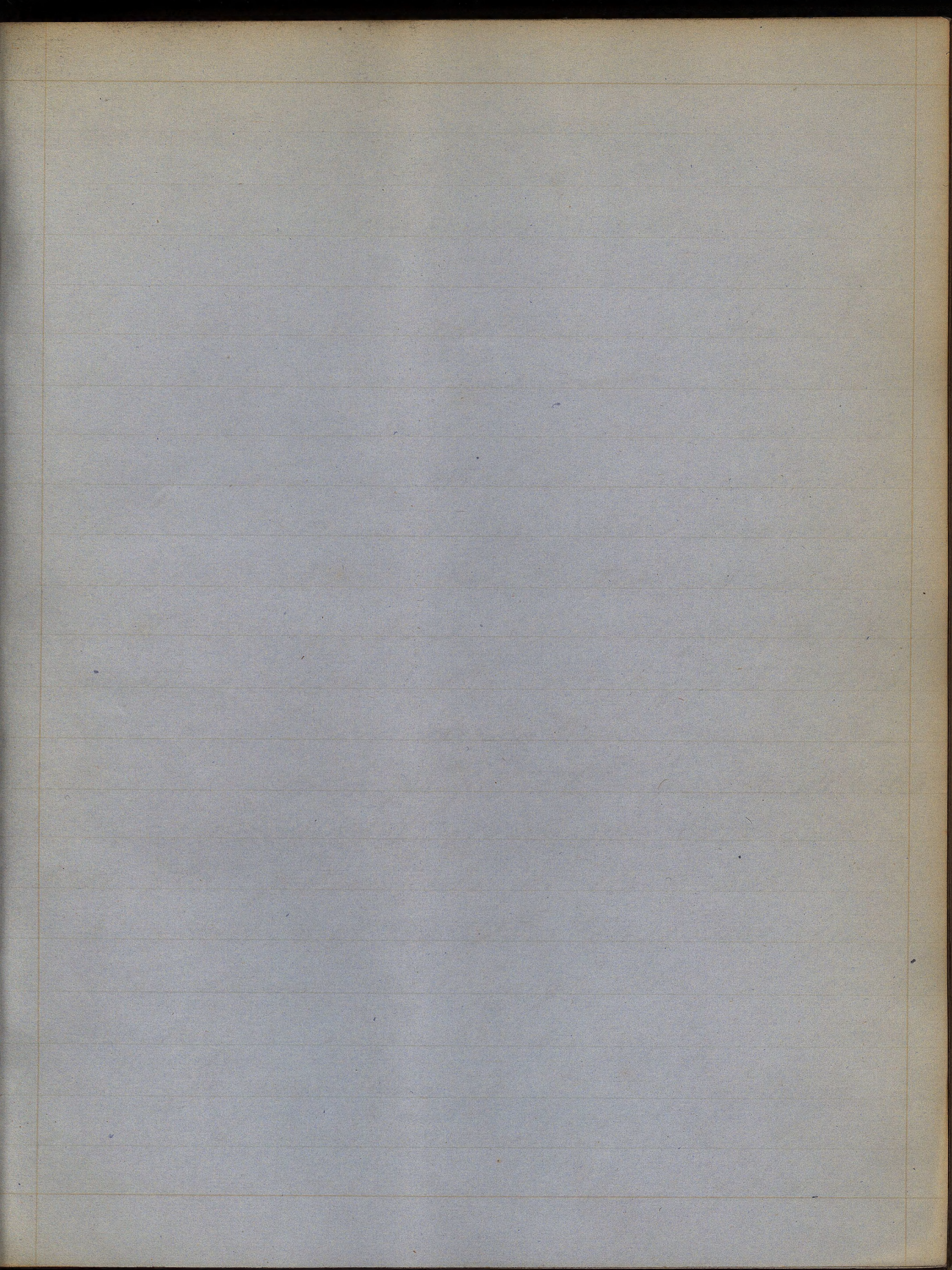
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— "One Remedy at a Time." —

This is one of the cardinal doctrines of Homoeopathy. Its importance has ~~not~~ only been affirmed and commented upon in the past, by Hahnemann and the lesser lights which have succeeded him, but it is inculcated at the present day, as a law imperatively binding upon the Homoeopathic Physician. Any deviation from it, stamps the perpetrator as a seceder from Homoeopathy, and as recreant to all the principals of its faith.

And yet in this instance it does seem as though human wisdom might have erred, and that those who are unwilling to be considered aught but dispensers of light, have become to some extent "blind guides".

It is possible however, that the origin-
-ators of this statement, intended that
it should be taken in a restricted
sense, but as no mention of this has
ever been made by them, no one
is at liberty, to construe it - or rather
to mis-construe it into a toleration
of anything but single remedies in
the treatment of disease.

But to apply this principal.

It is well understood that the
phenomena of every disease is made
up of two classes of symptoms - viz.
idiopathic and symptomatic. Well; the
adherents of the one remedy principal
claim, that if a remedy is so
nicely selected as to cover all of
the idiopathic or primary symptoms,
upon its prescription, they together
with those dependent upon them will
disappear. Whereas: They contend
that if in the same case - two rem-
-edies instead of one had been given

one of the following results would have been obtained. Either 1st. An entire new set of symptoms super-added to the old. from the fact that two remedies when given in conjunction may produce entire different results than the pathogenesis of either remedy singly considered would lead us to suppose. Or 2nd. No beneficial result whatever, from the fact that the two remedies were antiodotes Or 3rd. Only a partial amelioration of the disease, for though the two remedies were not antidotal in their character yet the one being contra-indicated indirectly counteracted the effect of the other by operating powerfully upon the system in its diseased condition -

But all of this will be readily admitted by any & everyone who is possessed of a moderate share of discrimination. It does not follow from this however

that there are no cases in which the
alternation of remedies may not be
proper and beneficial. For instance,
suppose in a given case it is found
that the prominent symptoms indicate
distinctly two different remedies, which
are in no way antagonistic in their
action. Now here, no one will contend
that the remedies should not be given
alternately. On the contrary, all must
see & believe that the exhibition of them
in this manner would annihilate the
disease more speedily - more certainly
and more perfectly than could possibly
be done by giving but one remedy,
which covered only a part of the symptoms,
and left the remainder untouched.

But again. Suppose a votary
of the one-remedy principal, is called upon
to prescribe for a patient laboring under
an attack of some acute malady, and
upon examination, he finds present in

his constitution a marked psoric taint
and that it holds a direct relation
to the aggravated form of the disease.
Now here if he is governed strictly by
the law which he professes to be guided
by, he is certainly placed in an un-
pleasant situation - in other words he
finds himself in an awkward dilemma.
The probability is that one of two things
must be sacrificed - either his patient
or his principals. - for if he confines
himself to one remedy he of course
will prescribe for those which are
the most marked and dangerous in
their character - or in other words - the
acute symptoms. but instead of suc-
-being as in uncomplicated cases they
would readily do the Homoeopathic prac-
-titioner of experience knows, that in a large
majority of cases they will baffle all his
efforts to subdue them.

The case is equally bad, if he

confines himself exclusively to the present
manifestations. for while he is bruised
here, the acute symptoms - left wholly
uncared for will arise in their strength
and in all probability carry off the patient.
-nt.

But it may be said that
the alteration of remedies is no departure
from this principle. In fact it has
been affirmed by high authority. That
so far from being a violation of it - in
instances like the foregoing - it is perfectly
consistent with it and should be
followed by all regular Homeopathic
practitioners! We confess our inability
to view it in this light. If it be
true it is entirely beyond our comprehens-
-ion. Is it not the fact that the
Anti-psoric may act an indefinite
length of time? Then it must be
manifest to all that it will be
working out its effects in the system

during the exhibition of repeated doses of the active remedy.

It seems to us, that it might be said with much more show of reason, that the alternation of remedies in simple uncomplicated cases of acute disease, is no violation of the principal, for here, their force is spent in a very short time. But it cannot be said with anything but a show of reason, for what method has yet been discovered by which we are enabled to ascertain the precise duration of the action of any remedy or remedies? —

But sufficient has been said to show, that if the principal here involved be not ~~wholly~~ wholly grounded in error, it is at least stated and taught, in an ambiguous and unsatisfactory manner. — Now.

here we conceive that a radical change should be made and that immediately. And this to, not only that the class of young men who are about to go forth to promulgate and practice the doctrines of Homeopathy - may not labor under mistaken and erroneous notions and ideas, but that a vast load may be removed from the consciences of a large number of the older practitioners of the new-school -

We believe that we are perfectly safe in declaring, that three fourths of the best Homeopathic physicians of the present day, are in the constant habit of alternating remedies. Now why is this? They must be aware that in so doing they are violating one of the laws by which they profess to be governed; Then again we ask - why is it? Well, for the

simple reason that experience has taught them. That in some instances at least it is the best means by which to arrive at the desired end - viz. the cure of their patients. But all this matters not. The Homeopathic principal - "One remedy at a time" - does not allow of the slightest deviation. And surely the alternation of remedies - though it may be in many instances superior practice - is entirely at variance with it. Most or all of them have felt this, and that an error existed somewhere - either in the statement of the principal. or in the principal itself. but they have either been too indolent - too indifferent or too timid, to speak out and thereby call attention to a subject which so imperatively demands correction. Then in order that these physicians may in future. Conscientiously practice pure Homeopathy. We conceive that this principal should be at once essentially altered and remodeled.

Again. The credit and advancement of Homeopathy demand this change. for the Allopathic-physician ascertaining this to ~~be~~ constitute one of the fundamental doctrines of its creed. and observing the discrepancy which exists between it and the practice

of its followers. will use it as a powerful weapon
for their discomfiture - and to prevent that wide
and Extensive dissemination of ^{Homeopathic} its principals. which
is of such vital interest to all who are aware of their
intrinsic value and superiority -

Other reasons there are of equally grave importance
why something should be done in this matter. but time and
space forbid their immutation. Enough has been said
to at least call attention to the subject and though it
may all be disregarded by the sages to whose notice it
will be brought yet the time may come when they will
be made painfully aware, that inattention to little things
in the first stages of a reform. may: if it do not allow
them to completely undermine and destroy ^{it}, at least prove
serious drawbacks upon its ultimate prosperity and
triumph.